

division number setting means, responsive to a bit stream input including a predetermined number M of transport packets as a unit, wherein M is an integer, wherein N sync blocks are related to the transport packets such that N is not equal to M, and wherein N is an integer;

said division number setting means setting the division number so that M transport packets are divided into N sync blocks to form the recording format;

header appending means for appending, to data of the bit stream before the division, a header indicating the transport packet; and

format forming means for forming N consecutive sync blocks from the data after the division of the bit stream.

7. (Twice Amended) A digital VTR for magnetically recording and replaying a digitally transmitted bit stream in a predetermined recording format, comprising:

data identification means for decoding header information of the input bit stream;

data extracting means for extracting, from the input bit stream, a series of encoded data of image blocks used for fast replay, based on the decoded header information;

decoding means for decoding the series of coded data of the input bit stream and for outputting a transformation coefficient belonging to the decoded data;

coefficient counting means for counting the number of transformation coefficients; and

data reducing means for receiving the coefficient count number from the coefficient counting means in such a way that the data length of the extracted, coded data of an integer number of image blocks is reduced to a data amount which can be recorded in K sync blocks in said predetermined format, wherein K is a positive integer.